

PICTURE RETAKES?



Oct. 8th!



**CLASS
UPDATES**



TEAMWORKS



**FALL
ACTIVITIES AT
OAK**

8 WHITE NEWS



Welcome to 8 White!

This year, the 8 White team will be sending monthly newsletters to parents and guardians. Our hope is the newsletter will provide you with a direct link to everything that is going on, both on team as well as in the Oak Middle School community. We look forward to working with all of you and your children throughout the year!

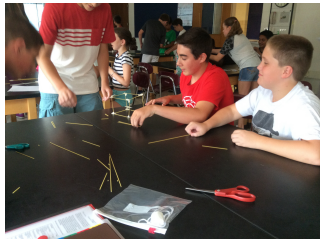
~ Jess Crosby, Maura Egan, Zarina Madan, Jason Ponticelli, Jesse Shaw

Students work on a
"People"
Scavenger Hunt to
get know one
another better.

Science

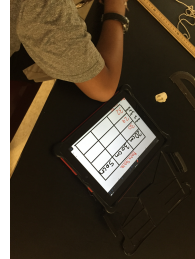
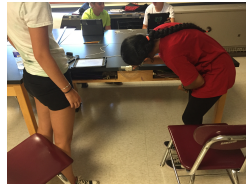
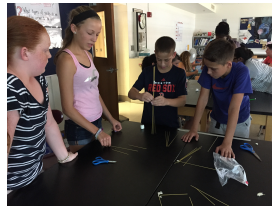
Science is off to an exciting start! Students have been immersed in the scientific inquiry process almost from the moment they walked through the door on September 1st- learning about how to design and carry out an experiment, as well as use the data they collect to form evidence-based claims. We will continue to hone these skills as we move through our current unit and the rest of the school year.

I have been very impressed with the students' willingness to ask questions and their eagerness to try new things and think "outside the box".



We recently began our first unit- Properties of Matter. Students used their prior knowledge to determine the definition of matter and are now learning and practicing their

measurement skills. Throughout October, they will continue discovering different properties that they can use to describe matter.



Our trip to Teamworks!



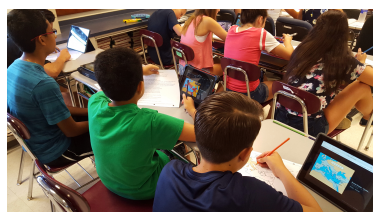
On September 24, the 8

White team had an incredibly successful visit to Teamworks in Northborough. All of the teachers were so proud of how willing our students were to communicate with one another, collaborate to solve problems, encourage one another, and take safe risks (especially during the ropes course!).

Students are currently working in small groups to develop posters that represent some of the skills and strategies they learned on the field trip. We look forward to continuing to build on the foundation of skills we laid at Teamworks.

World History

We've had a great start to the school year in World History! We started the year learning about chronology and the Domino Effect. We talked about our ability to grasp the historical importance of an event by asking "What if...?" By changing the outcome of an event and imagining how the world, and History, would be different in its aftermath, allows us to truly understand the event's importance. It's pretty cool!

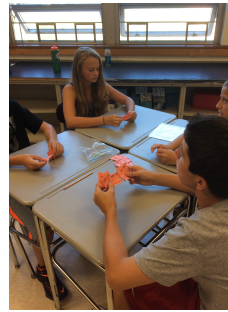


We also covered the Rise of the Western Roman Empire from a tiny republic to a powerful, expansive empire. We have our first assessment on the topic this coming Friday, 10/2. I always give a study guide for each test that we review/correct. We also play a review Jeopardy type game prior to the test.

And as fun as the Rise of the Empire has been, it's just as fun to study The Fall. "What goes up, must come down!"

Math

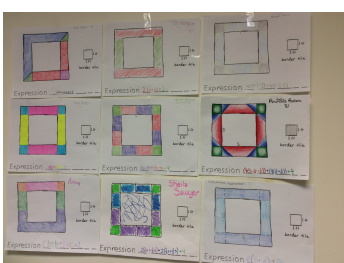
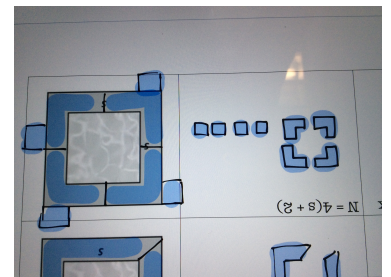
To finish off our review week, we have review game day in class. Students traveled around the room throughout 3 stations where they played Uno, Go Fish, and Countdown to Zero. These games incorporated our main review topics such as distributing, combining like terms and integers. This was an engaging way to get students to practice math skills (see pictures below).



Last Monday, we started our **new unit** called "Say It With Symbols". In this unit, students will be:

- Writing algebraic expressions
- Simplifying algebraic expressions
- Substituting algebraic expressions
- Solving equations

In the **first investigation**, students were managers at a tiling company, trying to find an efficient method of determining how many tiles were needed to border pools. Students used visuals to help communicate their thinking and write algebraic expressions based on their ideas (see pictures).



Students also were architects, designing pools given a certain amount of area that pool needed to cover. We discussed how expressions can represent area of shapes and how we can use that idea to understand abstract ideas such as variables.

As **assessments**, students had two check-in quizzes so far. Both of the quizzes were done on Schoology so you can see how your child did. I expect students to seek out help if they did poorly, as well as work on corrections as part of homework. There will be a quiz this Friday (October 2nd) that will be independent - no partner and no notes. It will be over investigation 1 and 2 (which we will do this week). Students will receive a study guide on Wednesday.

Our first **project** was assigned last Friday. Students could choose between the Pool Design Challenge or the Checkerboard Challenge. The rough drafts looked great and the final drafts are coming in this week. Ask your child which challenge they did and how they did it!

English/Language Arts

Since the first days of school we've been busy in ELA! Reflecting on a piece of 7th grade writing, we created individual writing goals for this year. We completed an intake benchmark assessment to have a baseline from which to measure the growth in our writing this year. We have moved on from the preliminary materials into our first unit.



Two of the essential questions for the unit are:

- How do authors convey meaning through words and/or images?
- How do cultural experiences influence who we are?

We will explore these questions through the lens of non-fiction articles and a realistic fiction novel, Under the Persimmon Tree. We read an article from The New York Times written the day after September 11, 2001 and had some excellent discussions surrounding the events in the article. We also simulated what it would be like if we were quickly forced to leave our country because of war. Some of us were accepted into the Eganville Refugee Camp, while others found they did not have the correct documentation and were therefore forced to live in the Zone of Disaster. We have read and listened to news stories about migrants and refugees, and with these readings have focused on how to make strong claims in our paragraphs as we summarize key details from non-fiction articles.



Many activities are starting up at Oak this Fall. Check out the list, along with descriptions below.

Oak Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is looking for musicians who play piano, guitar and bass. Auditions for these instruments will take place during the week of October 5th. Students should see Mr. Ugliaro before school for more information and to sign up for an audition time.

Oak Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad team is a competitive program that prepares most of the year for the state competition in March.

An informational meeting, for students only, was held on Thursday, September 24th . The

S.T.A.R - Students Talk And Resolve

STAR Peer Mediators help their fellow students deal with conflict in a productive way. If your child is interested in joining S.T.A.R, please visit the OMS website at <http://schools.shrewsbury.ma.gov/oak/star-peer-mediators.cfm> for more information and to download a "STAR Peer Mediator Form".

Oak Yearbook Committee

If your child is interested in joining the Yearbook Committee, he/she can talk with their homeroom teacher about being a homeroom representative. The first meeting was Monday, September 28th at 2:30 pm in the Media Center. Parents will sign up their child on the parent portal under "Sports and Activities". The one time \$50.00 activity fee must be paid in order to join.

Dr. Who Club

Calling all Whovians! The Doctor Who club will have its first meeting Friday October 2nd from 2:45-3:45 in Room 266. If your child is interested in joining the Dr. Who Club, please sign them up on the Powerschool Parent Portal under "Sports and Activities". The one time \$50.00 activity fee must be paid in order to join.

Student Voice

Student Voice is for student leaders interested in becoming involved in the Oak Community by representing their team to discuss student-life issues and to plan activities that build school unity and spirit. Anyone interested must be signed up on the Powerschool Parent Portal. The First Meeting is Wednesday, October 7th from 2:45-3:30p.m. in Room 108.

Community Service & Leadership Club

"The Community Service and Leadership Club will hold an informational meeting, on Thursday October 1st at 2:35 in room 126. Anyone interested in joining must be signed up on the Powerschool Parent Portal. For more information your child can see Mrs. McGrath in room 126 or Mrs. McCarthy in room 429.

A.S.A.P (after school activity program)

We are offering an after school activity program for the fall. The program will run from the week of October 13th through December 11th. More details to follow next week.